

CIA/OCI/BRIEF 187-75  
5 DECEMBER 1975

Approved For Release 2001/09/21 : CIA-RDP85B0068R00300108-2

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MIDDLE EAST AFRICA BRIEF 187-75-4

1. SPANISH SAHARA: MOROCCO IS MOVING RAPIDLY TO CONSOLIDATE ITS FOOTHOLD IN SPANISH SAHARA.<sup>4</sup>

NUMEROUS MOROCCAN OFFICIALS HAVE TRAVELED TO THE TERRITORIAL CAPITAL OF EL AAIUN TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NEW ADMINISTRATION. POSTAL SERVICES, AIRLINE CONNECTIONS, AND TELEPHONE LINKS HAVE BEEN SET UP. ON MONDAY, MOROCCO'S DEPUTY GOVERNOR, AHMED BENSOUDA, VISITED THE NORTH-CENTRAL TOWN OF SEMARA, WHICH MOROCCAN TROOPS OCCUPIED ON NOVEMBER 27.<sup>4</sup>

MOROCCO'S CLAIM THAT SAHARAN VIEWS ARE BEING TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT WAS BUTTRESSED ON NOVEMBER 29 WHEN THE SAHARAN TERRITORIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY FORMALLY APPROVED THE RECENT SPANISH-MOROCCAN-MAURITANIAN AGREEMENT AND DECLARED ALLEGIANCE TO KING HASSAN. A SPANISH CORRESPONDENT REPORTS, HOWEVER, THAT FEWER THAN ONE THIRD OF THE ASSEMBLY'S MEMBERS WERE IN ATTENDANCE AT THE SPECIAL MEETING. A DELEGATION OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ASSEMBLY AND TRIBAL CHIEFS, CLAIMING TO REPRESENT ALL SAHARANS, FLEW TO RABAT ON TUESDAY TO GIVE THEIR ALLEGIANCE TO KING HASSAN.<sup>4</sup>

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ALGERIA'S PUBLIC REACTION TO MOROCCO'S GROWING PRESENCE IN SAHARA HAS BECOME MORE ACRIMONIOUS. THE ALGERIAN MEDIA HAVE ACCUSED SPANISH OFFICIALS OF FACILITATING RABAT'S TAKE-OVER OF SEMARA AND SOME OUTPOSTS IN THE NORTHERN PART OF THE TERRITORY.<sup>4</sup>

THE ALGERIAN PRESS AND RADIO ARE HIGHLIGHTING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE POLISARIO FRONT, A SAHARAN INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT BACKED BY ALGIERS. THE FRONT IS ALLEGING MOROCCAN ATROCITIES AGAINST CIVILIANS IN SAHARA AND SAYS IT IS FIGHTING FIERCE BATTLES AGAINST INVADING MOROCCAN FORCES. CLASHES BETWEEN MOROCCAN TROOPS AND POLISARIO GUERRILLAS HAVE BEEN OCCURRING FOR SEVERAL WEEKS IN THE NORTHEAST, BUT MOST HAVE PROBABLY BEEN SMALL-SCALE SKIRMISHES CONTESTING CONTROL OF AREAS ABANDONED LAST MONTH BY SPANISH FORCES.<sup>4</sup>

ALGIERS IS STILL MANEUVERING AT THE UN FOR A FORMAL DISAVOWAL OF THE TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT AND IS UNLIKELY TO UNDERTAKE DIRECT ACTION THAT WOULD PREJUDICE ITS CASE WITH THE SAME NONALIGNED NATIONS. IT NEEDS TO SUPPORT A GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A REFERENDUM ON SELF-DETERMINATION.<sup>4</sup>

THE SPANISH SEEM COMMITTED TO THE RECENT AGREEMENT AND ARE

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ACCELERATING THEIR WITHDRAWAL FROM THE TERRITORY TO AVOID INVOLVEMENT IN ANY HOSTILITIES BETWEEN MOROCCO AND THE POLISARIO FRONT OR ALGERIA. SPANISH PRESS REPORTS FROM EL AAIUN CLAIM THE WITHDRAWAL MAY BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF THIS MONTH OR IN EARLY JANUARY--WELL IN ADVANCE OF THE SCHEDULED FEBRUARY DEADLINE. {CONFIDENTIAL}4

2. BANGLADESH: COMMUNAL TENSIONS IN BANGLADESH AND STRAINED RELATIONS WITH INDIA MAY BE FURTHER WORSENER BY A RADICAL BENGALI LEADER'S CALL THIS WEEK FOR A PRO-MUSLIM, ANTI-INDIAN RALLY ON DECEMBER 7. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN DACCA, FEARFUL OF POSSIBLE INDIAN INTERVENTION IN BANGLADESH, PRESUMABLY WILL TAKE STEPS TO BLOCK THE RALLY, OR AT LEAST WILL TRY TO KEEP IT FROM GETTING OUT OF HAND AND ENDANGERING THE HINDU MINORITY.4

THE RALLY, CALLED BY OPPOSITION LEADER MAULANA BHASHANI, HAS BEEN HERALDED BY INFLAMMATORY LEAFLETS THAT CONDEMN INDIA AND URGE ISLAMIC UNITY. THE LEAFLETS' RELIGIOUS OVERTONES WILL PROBABLY INCREASE APPREHENSION AMONG BANGLADESH'S HINDUS, WHO HAVE BEEN ESPECIALLY UNEASY SINCE THE WOUNDING LAST WEEK OF THE INDIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER IN DACCA BY MEMBERS OF A BENGALI ■ OPPOSITION GROUP.4

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DACCA PROBABLY WILL CONTINUE EFFORTS TO EASE HINDU CONCERNs. IT RECENTLY INCREASED POLICE PROTECTION FOR THE HINDUS AND TIGHTENED SECURITY IN DACCA IN REACTION TO RUMORS THAT THE GROUP THAT WOUNDED THE INDIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER PLANS ANOTHER INCIDENT.<sup>4</sup>

ANTI-INDIAN STATEMENTS IN THE LEAFLETS ANNOUNCING THE RALLY HAVE STRUCK A RESPONSIVE CHORD AMONG BENGALEES. THE LEAFLETS ARE SURE TO UPSET OFFICIALS IN NEW DELHI. INDIA HAS ALREADY PROTESTED ~~THE~~ THE DESCRATION LAST WEEK OF A HINDU TEMPLE IN DACCA, AND OFFICIALS IN NEW DELHI CHARGE THAT THERE HAVE BEEN INCIDENTS AT OTHER TEMPLES IN BANGLADESH.<sup>4</sup>

DACCA CAN BE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE ITS ATTEMPTS TO REASSURE INDIA. THE VISIT OF A HIGH-LEVEL BENGALEE DELEGATION TO NEW DELHI STILL APPEARS TEMPORARILY STALLED, BUT INDIAN AND BENGALEE BORDER COMMANDERS ARE MEETING THIS WEEK IN CALCUTTA. BENGALEE LEADERS AND NEWSPAPERS HAVE RECENTLY BEEN AVOIDING STATEMENTS THAT COULD ANTAGONIZE INDIA.<sup>4</sup>

INDIA HAS REPEATEDLY WARNED THAT A MASS EXODUS OF HINDUS INTO INDIA WOULD LEAD TO MILITARY INTERVENTION. SO FAR, THERE IS NO SIGN

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OF A LARGE-SCALE HINDU FLIGHT. DUE NEW ARRIVAL OF HINDUS THAN USUAL HAVE RECENTLY BEEN SEEKING ASYLUM IN INDIA. (CONFIDENTIAL) E-2, IMPACT--A

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WESTERN HEMISPHERE BRIEF 187-75.4

3. ARGENTINA: PRESIDENT PERON'S INATTENTION TO OFFICIAL DUTIES CONTINUES TO GENERATE POLITICAL UNCERTAINTY.4

DESPITE THE IMPRESSION GIVEN BY INTERIOR MINISTER ROBLEDO THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN PRESIDENT PERON, THE CABINET, THE PERONIST PARTY OFFICIALS ARE NORMAL, SHE REMAINS INACCESSIBLE TO ALL BUT A FEW. SHE REPORTEDLY HAS FAILED TO ATTEND TWO SCHEDULED CABINET MEETINGS AND HAS SPENT ONLY ABOUT FIVE HOURS IN HER OFFICE SINCE HER RELEASE FROM THE HOSPITAL ON NOVEMBER 13.4

ONE OF THE MOST RESPECTED RETIRED MILITARY GENERALS, ALCIDES LOPEZ AUFRANC, HAS DEFENDED THE ARMED FORCES' RIGHT TO INTERVENE WHEN BASIC LIBERTIES SEEM THREATENED OR WHEN THE COUNTRY IS FACED WITH CHAOS. ALTHOUGH A MILITARY MOVE AGAINST PERON IS STILL NOT CONSIDERED IMMINENT, THE GENERAL'S REMARKS COULD BE INTENDED TO REST THE PUBLIC'S REACTION TO SUCH A DEVELOPMENT AND INDICATE THAT SUCH CURRENTS ARE STILL IN THE AIR. {CONFIDENTIAL}4

SECRET NOFORN

2. //VENEZUELA: CARACAS' PURCHASE LAST WEEK OF AN UNUSUALLY LARGE QUANTITY OF ARGENTINE WHEAT, YELLOW CORN, AND SORGHUM GRAINS APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN MOTIVATED IN LARGE PART BY ANGER OVER THE US TRADE REFORM ACT, WHICH EXCLUDED VENEZUELA AND OTHER OPEC MEMBERS FROM THE GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES. PRESIDENT PEREZ PERSONALLY INTERVENED IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH ARGENTINE OFFICIALS AND INSTRUCTED FINANCE MINISTER HECTOR HURTADO TO NEGOTIATE A LARGE CONTRACT, CONTRARY TO THE ADVICE OF SENIOR VENEZUELAN MARKETING OFFICIALS, WHO NORMALLY HANDLE SUCH MATTERS. IN THE PAST, NEARLY ALL OF VENEZUELA'S NEEDS FOR IMPORTED WHEAT WERE FILLED BY PURCHASES FROM THE US. THE SHIFT IN SUPPLIERS, IN ADDITION TO REFLECTING VENEZUELA'S IRE OVER THE TRADE ACT, SHOWS PEREZ' INTEREST IN SOLIDIFYING ARGENTINA'S COOPERATION ON HEMISPHERIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO VENEZUELA. (CONFIDENTIAL NOFORN) //<sup>Y</sup>

3. VENEZUELA: VENEZUELA HAS LOWERED ITS TARGET FOR CRUDE OIL OUTPUT IN 1976 FROM 2.2 MILLION TO 2.0 MILLION BARRELS A DAY. THE REDUCTION IN PLAN WAS PROMOTED BY:

-WEAK DEMAND FOR THE HEAVY CRUDES PRODUCED BY VENEZUELA.<sup>Y</sup>

4

SECRET NOFORN

- THE NEW HIGHER PRICES SET BY THE GOVERNMENT IN OCTOBER.4
- THE ANTICIPATED PROBLEMS IN MARKETING CRUDE AFTER NATIONALIZATION NEXT MONTH.4

THE NEW REDUCTION IN PLANNED OUTPUT INDICATES THAT CARACAS IS AWARE THAT SOME OF ITS PROBLEMS MAY EXTEND WELL INTO NEXT YEAR. IF DEMAND STRENGTHENS, HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT COULD EASILY PERMIT PRODUCTION TO BE RESTORED TO THE ORIGINAL TARGET. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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EAST ASIA BRIEF 187-75.4

// PHILIPPINES: ACTIVIST CATHOLIC PRIESTS AND NUNS, LABOR UNION LEADERS, AND MEMBERS OF THE PRO-PEKING COMMUNIST PARTY ARE PLANNING A PROTEST RALLY IN MANILA TO COINCIDE WITH PRESIDENT FORD'S VISIT ON DECEMBER 6. ALTHOUGH THE MAIN FOCUS OF THE RALLY WILL BE OPPOSITION TO A RECENT LABOR DECREE BY PRESIDENT MARCOS, THE COMMUNISTS HOPE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE DEMONSTRATION TO AGITATE AGAINST THE US PRESENCE IN THE PHILIPPINES.4

// THE CHURCH-LABOR-COMMUNIST COALITION HAS ORGANIZED SEVERAL SUCCESSFUL RALLIES IN THE PAST, THE LATEST A GATHERING OF SOME 4,000 IN LATE NOVEMBER. THE DEMONSTRATIONS HAVE BEEN PEACEFUL, BUT THEY ARE EMBARRASSING TO THE MARCOS REGIME. THE CHURCH HAS BEEN THE MAIN CENTER OF PUBLIC OPPOSITION TO MARCOS SINCE HE DECLARED MARTIAL LAW IN SEPTEMBER 1972.4

// THE TARGET OF THE LATEST ROUND OF RALLIES IS A PRESIDENTIAL LABOR DECREE OF EARLY OCTOBER THAT, AMONG OTHER THINGS, IMPOSES A TOTAL BAN ON STRIKES AND PROHIBITS FOREIGNERS FROM ENGAGING IN TRADE UNION ACTIVITIES. MISSIONARY PRIESTS, MANY OF WHOM ARE FOREIGNERS, ARE

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AMONG THE MOST ACTIVE UNION ORGANIZERS AND SUPPORTERS OF LABOR ACTIVITIES. MOREOVER, SOME PRIESTS FEAR THAT THE DECREE MAY BE PART OF A BROADER ATTEMPT BY MARCOS TO NEUTRALIZE THE CHURCH'S EFFECTIVENESS AS A MEANS FOR ORGANIZING OPPOSITION.<sup>4</sup>

THE COMMUNISTS HAVE HAD LITTLE SUCCESS SINCE MARTIAL LAW IN ORGANIZING PROTESTS ON THEIR OWN. ARRESTS AND SURVEILLANCE HAVE SERIOUSLY DISRUPTED THE PARTY'S ORGANIZATION AND UNDERMINED ITS ABILITY TO CONDUCT ANTIGOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES. AS A RESULT, THE COMMUNISTS HAVE PAID INCREASING ATTENTION TO CULTIVATING THE MORE RADICAL CATHOLIC ACTIVISTS.<sup>4</sup>

NOT ALL ACTIVIST PRIESTS ARE COMFORTABLE WITH THEIR NEW ALLIES, DESPITE A CONFLUENCE OF INTERESTS IN MANY AREAS. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE MODERATES WITHIN BOTH THE CHURCH AND THE LABOR MOVEMENT MAY DECIDE THAT HOLDING A PROTEST RALLY DURING PRESIDENT FORD'S VISIT COULD DO MORE HARM THAN GOOD. IT COULD PRECIPITATE A MAJOR GOVERNMENT CRACKDOWN AND MIGHT CAUSE MARCOS TO CARRY OUT RECENT VEILED THREATS THAT HIS GOVERNMENT IS CONSIDERING NEW RESTRICTIONS AGAINST FOREIGN PRIESTS WHO WORK IN THE PHILIPPINES. {SECRET NOFORN} E-2 IMPDET.<sup>4</sup>

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EUROPEAN BRIEF 187-75.4

1. PORTUGAL: PORTUGAL'S RULING REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL ON THURSDAY PRESSED AHEAD WITH PLANS TO PROSECUTE THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PARATROOP REBELLION LAST WEEK AND CONTINUED THE PURGE OF PRO-COMMUNIST FROM ITS RANKS.<sup>4</sup>

THE COUNCIL NAMED AIR FORCE BRIGADIER LUIS ARAUJO TO HEAD A COMMISSION OF INQUIRY TO LOOK INTO EVENTS SURROUNDING THE UPRISING AND INSTRUCTED INVESTIGATIVE ORGANS TO PREPARE LEGAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE ACCUSED.<sup>4</sup>

APPROXIMATELY 100 SOLDIERS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED, AND OTHERS ARE STILL BEING SOUGHT. ALL OF THOSE IMPLICATED HAVE BEEN MILITARY PERSONNEL, BUT THE GOVERNMENT HAS averred THAT THEY WERE PART OF A LARGER PLOT WITH BROAD POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS.<sup>4</sup>

THE NAVAL HIGH COMMAND ANNOUNCED THE ARREST ON THURSDAY OF PRO-COMMUNIST NAVAL LIEUTENANT COMMANDER ALMADA CONTREIRAS, AND A WARRANT HAS BEEN ISSUED FOR THE ARREST OF HIS DEPUTY. CONTREIRAS ALSO WAS REMOVED FROM THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL. HIS DEPARTURE LEAVES ONLY ONE PRO-COMMUNIST STILL ON THE COUNCIL-NAVY

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COMMANDER MARTINS GUERREIRO.<sup>4</sup>

THE MILITARY PURGE--WHICH HAS NOW CLAIMED 36 MEMBERS OF PRIME MINISTER AZEVEDO'S PERSONAL STAFF--HAS PROMPTED AN OUTCRY FROM THE COMMUNIST PARTY NEWSPAPER AVANTE. IN A FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL, THE PAPER APPEALED FOR AN END TO THE PURGES AND ARRESTS, CHARGING THAT THEY WERE PART OF A WITCH-HUNT BY REACTIONARY FORCES.<sup>4</sup>

THE COMMUNISTS HAVE BEEN PLACED INCREASINGLY ON THE DEFENSIVE BY THE SHARP REVERSALS IN PARTY FORTUNES, WHICH BEGAN IN SEPTEMBER WITH THE OVERTHROW OF PRO-COMMUNIST FORMER PRIME MINISTER VASCO GONCALVES. BUT THEY STILL APPEAR UNPREPARED TO ACCEPT THE CONDITIONS RECENTLY SET FORTH BY THE SOCIALISTS FOR THEIR CONTINUED PARTICIPATION IN THE CABINET--REPUDIATION OF THE MILITARY UPRISING AND A PLEDGE OF LOYALTY TO THE AZEVEDO GOVERNMENT.<sup>4</sup>

IN REJECTING THE SOCIALIST DEMANDS, AVANTE SAID THAT A CAPITULATION BY THE PARTY ON SUCH A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE WAS NEITHER VIABLE NOR POSSIBLE. {CONFIDENTIAL}<sup>4</sup>

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2. SPAIN: KING JUAN CARLOS DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE HAVING AS MUCH SUCCESS GETTING A NEW PRIME MINISTER AS HE DID IN HAVING HIS CANDIDATE INSTALLED AS PRESIDENT OF THE PARLIAMENT.<sup>4</sup>

JUAN CARLOS PROBABLY WOULD LIKE TO REPLACE PRIME MINISTER ARIAS SOON. BY CHOOSING A NEW PRIME MINISTER WITH A LIBERAL IMAGE, THE KING COULD EMPHASIZE HIS BREAK WITH FRANCOISM AND SIGNAL TO THE LEFTIST OPPOSITION THAT HE IS SERIOUS ABOUT LIBERALIZING THE POLITICAL SYSTEM.<sup>4</sup>

ADDING TO THE PRESSURES FOR AN EARLY CHANGE ARE REPORTS THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD LIKE TO RETIRE NOW. HIS PERSONAL LOYALTIES LAY WITH FRANCO, AND HE WOULD RATHER END HIS CAREER AS FRANCO'S LAST PRIME MINISTER THAN AS JUAN CARLOS' FIRST. ACCORDING TO VARIOUS SOURCES, ARIAS IS PHYSICALLY AND EMOTIONALLY WORN OUT FROM THE STRESSES OF FRANCO'S PROTRACTED ILLNESS.<sup>4</sup>

THERE ARE, ON THE OTHER HAND, SEVERAL REASONS FOR DELAYING THE CHOICE OF A NEW PRIME MINISTER:

--RIGHTISTS, MIFFED BY THEIR FAILURE TO SECURE THE RETENTION OF RODRIGUEZ DE VALCARCEL AS PRESIDENT OF THE PARLIAMENT, AND

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FEARING THAT JUAN CARLOS WILL APPOINT A LIBERAL PRIME MINISTER,  
HAVE APPARENTLY STIFFENED THEIR RESISTANCE TO CHANGES IN THE  
GOVERNMENT AND THROWN THEIR SUPPORT BEHIND ARIAS.<sup>4</sup>

--DISAGREEMENTS AMONG THE 17-MAN COUNCIL OF THE REALM OVER  
NOMINATIONS FOR THE PRESIDENCY OF THE PARLIAMENT MAY HAVE CAUSED THE  
KING TO HAVE SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT THE COUNCIL'S READINESS TO  
ACCEPT HIS CHOICE FOR THE MORE IMPORTANT, AND MORE EMOTIONALLY  
CHARGED, APPOINTMENT OF A NEW PRIME MINISTER. THE COUNCIL HAS THE  
STATUTORY POWER TO REFUSE TO PLACE THE KING'S NOMINEE ON THE SLATE  
OF THREE NAMES FROM WHICH HE MUST CHOOSE THE NEW PRIME MINISTER.<sup>4</sup>

--THE TENURE OF A "TRANSITION" PRIME MINISTER WOULD AT  
BEST BE PRECARIOUS. IT COULD WELL LAST ONLY A FEW MONTHS, OR UNTIL  
JUAN CARLOS HAS HAD A BETTER CHANCE TO GAUGE THE POLITICAL TEMPERATURE  
OF THE COUNTRY.<sup>4</sup>

IF THE KING DECIDES TO REPLACE ARIAS NOW, HE WILL PROBABLY WAIT  
A WEEK OR SO UNTIL HE AND FERNANDEZ-MIRANDA ARE ASSURED OF ENOUGH  
SUPPORT FROM THE COUNCIL OF THE REALM. SHOULD JUAN CARLOS DECIDE TO  
RETAIN ARIAS FOR SEVERAL MONTHS--ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THE KING

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